

CLAIMS

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- 1 - A differential culture medium for the enumeration of food and beverage contaminant yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera, characterized in that it comprises a nutrient base, ethanol, *p*-cumaric acid, an acid-base indicator with turning points in the acid range, an inhibitor antibiotic for ^{sensitive} some yeasts species, and optionally a bacteria growth inhibitor and agar-agar.
- 2 - A culture medium according to claim 1, characterized in that the present amount of ethanol is from 32 to 96 g/L, preferably 48 g/L.
- 3 - A culture medium according to claim 1, characterized in that the present amount of *p*-cumaric acid is from 0.05 to 1.0 g/L, preferably 0.1 g/L.
- 4 - A culture medium according to claim 1, characterized in that the nutrient base is "Yeast Nitrogen Base", in amounts from 5 to 10 g/L, preferably 6.7 g/L.
- 5 - A culture medium according to claim 1, characterized in that the inhibitor antibiotic for some of the yeast species is cycloheximide, present in an amount from 0.004 to 0.1 g/L, preferably 0.01 g/L.
- 6 - A culture medium according to claim 1, characterized in that the pH indicator is bromocresol green, present in an amount of about 0.022 g/L.
- 7 - A culture medium according to claim 6, characterized in that the medium pH is adjusted with a strong acid to a value between 4.8 and 6.0, preferably 5.4.
- 8 - A culture medium according to claim 1, characterized in that it additionally contains a bacteria growth inhibitor, preferably chloramphenicol and/or

oxytetracycline, in amounts of ~~about~~ 0.1 g/L, to detect and identify yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera in food and beverage products containing mixed populations of yeasts and bacteria.

Sub 02
9 - A culture medium according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it contains all the components except agar-agar, to detect and identify yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera in food and beverage products containing mixed populations of yeasts, bacteria and particularly filamentous fungi.

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10 - A differential culture medium for enumeration of food and beverage contaminant yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera, characterized in that it has the following composition: 5 to 10 g/L, preferably 6.7 g/L, of "Yeast Nitrogen Base"; 0.004 to 0.1 g/L, preferably 0.01 g/L, of cycloheximide; 0.05 to 1.0 g/L, preferably 0.1 g/L, of *p*-cumaric acid; 0.022 g/L of bromocresol green, or another acid-base indicator with similar turning points; 32 to 96 g/L, preferably 48 g/L, of ethanol; 0.1 g/L of chloramphenicol and/or 0.1 g/L of oxytetracycline, and 20 g/L of agar-agar, the pH of the medium being adjusted between 4.8 and 6.0, preferably 5.4, with a strong acid.

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Sub 03
11 - A differential culture medium for enumeration of food and beverage contaminant yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera according to the preceding claims, characterized by the sterilization of all the components is done by filtration, except for the agar-agar which is sterilized in autoclave; the addition under aseptic conditions to this solution, after agar-agar cooling and before it solidifies, of all the other components of the medium, previously sterilized by filtration; and the dispensing of the medium into Petri dishes so that it solidifies.

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12 - A process for the detection and/or identification of yeasts of the *Dekkera*

and *Brettanomyces* genera, characterized by the use of a differential culture medium for enumeration of food and beverage contaminant yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera, comprising a nutrient base, a non-fermentable energy source, *p*-cumaric acid, an acid-base indicator with turning points in the acid range, an inhibitor antibiotic for some of the yeast species, and optionally a bacteria growth inhibitor and agar-agar.

13 – A process for the detection and/or identification of yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera according to claim 12, characterized in that the acid-base indicator is bromocresol green, and after inoculation of said medium with a sample containing yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera, and incubation for 5 to 12 days in adequate conditions for the growth of said yeasts, it is possible to detect the presence, and if needed the enumeration of said yeasts genera, by means of a medium color change, from blue to yellow, and development of cream colored colonies and a phenol-like aroma, characteristic of the yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera.

Sub 20 14 – A process for the detection and/or identification of yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera according to claims 12 and 13, characterized in that it is applied to the detection and enumeration of yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera in food and beverage products samples.

25 15 – Use of a culture medium according to claims 1 to 11, for inclusion in an identification gallery, together with other yeast identification tests.

16 – Use of a culture medium according to claims 1 to 11 in an industry, particularly in the quality and process control in a food and beverage industry.